fected Subiects, who by Loan of monies, or otherwiſe at their charge have aſſiſted the Common-wealth, or ſhall in like manner hereafter aſſiſt the Common-wealth in time of extreame danger, may be repayed al ſums of mony by them lent for that purpoſe, and be ſatisfied their charges ſo ſuſtained, out of the ſaid Delinquents, and of the Malignant and diſaffected party in this Kingdom.

Die Jovis, September 8. 1642.

IT is this day ordered by the Lords and Commons in Parliament Aſſembled, that the Lord Generall according to his Commiſſion, ſhall take ſpeciall care for the reſtraining and puniſhing diſorders in the Souldiers, according to the cuſtome of War.

Iohn Browne Cler. Parliam.

FINIS.

fected Subiects, who by Loan of monies, or otherwiſe at their charge have aſſiſted the Common-wealth, or ſhall in like manner hereafter aſſiſt the Common-wealth in time of extreame danger, may be repayed al ſums of mony by them lent for that purpoſe, and be ſatisfied their charges ſo ſuſtained, out of the ſaid Delinquents, and of the Malignant and diſaffected party in this Kingdom.

Die Jovis, September 8. 1642.

IT is this day ordered by the Lords and Commons in Parliament Aſſembled, that the Lord Generall according to his Commiſſion, ſhall take ſpeciall care for the reſtraining and puniſhing diſorders in the Souldiers, according to the cuſtome of War.

Iohn Browne Cler. Parliam.

FINIS.

41

A DECLARATION AND RESOLVTION

Of the

Lords and *Commons* assembled

In PARLIAMENT,

IN

ANSWER

to the *Scots* Declaration.

Wherein is set forth the true Zeal and Affection betwixt both Kingdomes, for the Reformation of

CHVRCH-GOVERNMENT

ORdered by the Commons in Parliament, That this Declaration be forthwith printed and published.

Hen. Elsyng. Cler. Parl. D. Com.

London, Printed for *Edward Husbands* and *John Franck*, and are to be sold at their Shops in the Middle Temple, and next door to the Kings head in Fleet-street, *September*. 23. 1642.

A DECLARATION AND RESOLVTION

Of the

Lords and Commons assembled

In PARLIAMENT,

IN

ANSWER

to the *Scots* Declaration.

Wherein is set forth the true Zeal and Affection betwixt both Kingdomes, for the Reformation of

CHVRCH-GOVERNMENT

Ordered by the Commons in Parliament, That this Declaration be forthwith printed and published.

Hel. Elsyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

London, Printed for *Edward Husband* and *John Franck*, and are to be sold at their shops in the Middle Temple and next door to the Kings head in Fleet-street, *September*. 25. 1642.

A DECLARATION AND RESOLVTION OF THE Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament, In Answer to the *Scots* Declaration.

THE Lords and Commons in Parliament have with approbation and thankes, received from the Commissioners of the Kingdome of *Scotland*, a cleare Manifestation of the respect which the Lords of His Majesties Secret Councell for that Realme do beare to the well-fare and peace of this Kingdome, in the expression of their Affections, wherein they were pleased to second the desires of the Generall Assembly of that Church for Unity in Religion, and Uniformity in Church-Government in His Majesties three Kingdomes: And having often had that matter in debate, and our most serious consideration; the Christian Advice of that Reverend assembly, and the grave Councell of that Honorable Table concurring with our owne Judgement, and Experience of the manifold mischiefs and distractions which the Government of the Prelacy of this Kingdom hath in all Times and Ages produced in this Church and State, Have moved us

to bring our Resolution to a more speedy maturity and conclusion; wherein, as we have satisfied our own reason, so we hope we shall satisfie the loving and Christian desires of our Brethren of *Scotland*; Although we know that hereby we shall exceedingly irritate that opposite and malignant party who will bend all their Invention and Force to interrupt this Worke, and to ruine and destroy us in the undertaking of it.

And we desire their Lordships to consider that the party which hath now incens'd and arm'd His Majesty against us, and His other faithfull Subjects in this Kingdome, is the very same which not long since upon the very same designe of rooting out the reformed Religion, did endeavour to begin that Tragedy in *Scotland*; which, whensoever it shall be perfected in either Nation, will easily be accomplished in the other; Religion being the Band and Foundation of the safety and happines of both. And as we resolve according to the Nationall Command betwixt the two Kingdoms, to be carefull of the peace of *Scotland* as of our own, so we doubt not but their Lordships and the Nation of *Scotland* will be carefull to expresse their brotherly kindnesse to us, and prudent care of themselves, by restraining the evill-affected amongst them, that they may not foment our troubles; and by all cleare wayes, according to the Articles ratified in the Parliaments of both Kingdoms, to maintain the Peace and Amity betwixt the two Nations, and to restrain the mischievous attempts and practises of those who are enemies to both; that so, through Gods blessing, we may mutually rejoyce in one anothers happinesse, and yeeld his Majesty such a faithfull subjection, as may be honorable to himselfe, comfortable to his people, advantagious to the Professors of the Reformed Religion in other parts beyond the Sea.

WE the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, having with much contentment perused the brotherly and Christian Answer, which the Generall Assemblie of the

Church

Church of *Scotland* have made unto the Declaration formerly ſent unto them from us; And finding therein great expreſſions of love to this Church and Kingdome, and of prudence and faithfullneſſe in propounding thoſe things which may conduce to a more cloſe and firm union of the two Churches and Nations of *England* and *Scotland*, in preſerving and maintaining the truth and purity of the Reformed Religion, not onely againſt Popery, but againſt all other ſuperſtitious Sects and Innovations whatſoever; Have thereupon reſumed into our conſideration and care, the matters concerning the Reformation of Church Government and diſcipline, which we have often had in conſultation and debate ſince the beginning of this Parliament: And ever made it our chiefeſt ayme, though we have been frequently interrupted, and powerfully oppoſed in the proſecution and accompliſhment of it.

And however we continue ſtill in the ſtorme and conflict, finding ſmall abatement of difficulty, and much increaſe of malignity and perverſeneſſe in the oppoſition, wherewith this great and neceſſarie work of Reformation is incountred; yet we heartilie thank God and rejoyce with our Brethren of *Scotland*, for that Peace, libertie, and preſervation which God hath afforded them, taking it as a pledge and earneſt of the like mercy intended to us in his good time, and hoping that he will not onely free us from the moſt grievous and deſtructive miſeries and calamities of a Civil War, but graciouſly perfect our deſignes and endeavours of a full Reformation in all matters appertaining to Religion, which as it is the greateſt honour and ſervice which God receives from his people, ſo we acknowledge with our brethren that it is the ſureſt foundation of glorie, ſtrength, and happineſſe, which he beſtowes upon any Nations

The manifold obſtructions and impediments which we have met with in ſeeking this great bleſſing, do give to us and all Gods people great cauſe of grief, and works in us an earneſt longing for the removall of them: Yet knowing that all the wonderfull works of God in this kind have been brought to perfection, through many oppoſitions and ſeeming impoſſibilities, that ſo the concluſiō might be more glorious to His divine Majeſty, & comfortable to his children, we cannot but in humility & ſubmiſſion expect the like iſſue of our wraſtling, & ſtriving with that fierce & peremptory oppoſition which hath been framed, & acted againſt us by the moſt ſubtill and buſy engines of Satan, the moſt peſtilent incendiaries among us the Jeſuits from abroad, a virulent and diſcontented party at home, conſiſting of the Prelaticall Clergy,

Atheiſticall projectors againſt Religion, prophane and ſenſuall ſelfe-lovers, hightned and inflamed againſt us, with a ſpirit of malignity beyond the example of former times, wherein we have had manifold occaſions to diſcerne both our owne weakeneſſe, and imperfections, and the Divine mercy and goodneſſe, and to hope that God having upheld us ſo long beyond our owne ſtrength and merit, will bring us through at laſt to the full accompliſhment of his owne praiſe, and of the joy of this and other Churches.

We acknowledge it an act of love to us, and of wiſdome for the good of both Churches, for which we are thankfull both to God and them, that our Brethren of *Scotland* have beſtowed their ſerious thoughts and earneſt deſires for Unity of Religion; That in all his Majeſties Dominions there might be one confeſſion of faith, one directory of worſhip, one publique Catechiſme, and one forme of Church-Government. And although it will hardly be obtained punctually and exactly, unleſſe ſomeway might be found for a mutuall Communication, and Conjunction of Councell and debate in framing that one forme: yet both intending the ſame end, proceeding by the ſame rule of Gods Word, and guided by the ſame ſpirit, we hope by Gods aſſiſtance to be ſo directed, that we may caſt out whatſoever is offenſive to God, or juſtly diſpleaſing to any Neighbour Church, and ſo far agree with our Brethren of *Scotland*, and other reformed Churches, in all ſubſtantiall parts of Doctrine, Worſhip and Diſcipline, that both we and they may injoy thoſe advantages, and conveniences which are mentioned by them, in this their Anſwer, in the more ſtrict Union of both Kingdomes, more ſafe, eaſy and comfortable Government of His Majeſty, and both to himſelfe and people more free Communion in all holy exerciſes and duties of worſhip, more conſtant ſecurity of Religion, againſt the bloody practiſes of Papiſts, and deceitfull errors of other Sectaries, and more profitable uſe of the Miniſtry: for the compaſſing & attaining whereof we intend to uſe the labour & adviſe of an aſſembly of godly learned Divines, for the convening of whom a Bill hath already paſt both houſes, wch had taken effect long ſince if we could have obtained his Majeſties Royall aſſent thereunto. All which conſidered, we acknowledge the faithfull and affectionate expreſſions of our Brethren, in wiſhing and deſiring this great advantage for us, doth fully deſerve thoſe thanks which we have formerly expreſſed, and no whit ſtand in need of that apology which they are pleaſ'd to make.

The maine cauſe which hitherto hath deprived us of theſe, and other great advantages, which we might have by a more cloſe Union

with

with the Church of *Scotland*, and other reformed Churches, is the government by Biſhops, which to ſtrengthen it ſelfe hath produced many other differences in Diſcipline and Ceremonies betwixt them and us, and is apt to work in the minds of thoſe who are the approvers and defenders of it, ſuch a diſeſteeme of, and oppoſition to thoſe Churches, as makes us deſperate of that moſt beneficiall and deſirable conjunction with them, untill this great impediment be removed: whereupon we have entred into a ſerious conſideration, what good we have received from this government by Biſhops, which may countervaile ſuch a loſſe and inconvenience, And we are ſo far from apprehending any ſatiſfaction herein, that we plainly perceive it a cauſe of many other calamities, dangers, and intollerable burdens, being a diſhonour to God, by arrogating to themſelves a preheminence and power which he hath not given them, by prophaning the purity of his Ordinances, with the mixture of their owne injunctions, by withſtanding the frequent and powerfull Preaching of the Goſpell, that ſo their uſurped authority might receive more eaſy admittance into the ignorant and miſguided conſciences of men, by corrupting the Miniſtry with Pride, Ambition, Covetouſneſſe, Idleneſſe and Luxury, by ſuppreſſing the ſpirituall power and efficacy of Religion, and turning it into formality and Pomp, by inclining to Popery, the principles thereof being ſuitable to this government, and contrary to thoſe principles which were the firſt grounds of Reformation. We likewiſe find it moſt pernitious to the civill ſtate and Common-Wealth, in that the Biſhops have ever beene active to infuſe into our Kings ſuch Tenents and Poſitions, as are contrary to the fundamentall Lawes of the Kingdome, and apt to introduce Tyranny, and an arbitrary power over the lives, liberties, and propriety of the ſubject, and that they have beene forward to incite the King againſt his people, and by force of Armes to conſtraine them to ſubmit to ſuch an arbitrary government, and by unlawfull contribution of money to aſſiſt His Majeſty in making war upon his ſubjects, whereof there are many evidences both in thoſe preparations which not long ſince were made to invade *Scotland*, and in the warre now raiſed againſt the Parliament, and Kingdome of *England*, and yet they have ſhewed themſelves ſo ambitious of ſoveraignty, that they forbeare not to maintaine in Sermons and printed books, that the Kings Sceptre ought to ſubmit to *Aarons* rod, and the Mitre to be above the ſword; which argues in them, an Antichriſtian ſpirit to exalt themſelves above all that is called God, and a deſigne (when they have brought the Kingdome to be diſpoſed at his pleaſure) to ſubject his Majeſty to their own arbitrary cenſures

that

that themselves may triumph in the bondage and slavery both of King and people.

Upon all wch and many other reasons we doe declare, That this government by Archb. Bishops, their Chancellours, and Commissaries Deans, Deans & Chapters, Archdeacons, & other Ecclesiastical officers depending upon the Hierarchie, is evill and justly offensive, and burdensome to the kingdome, a great impediment to Reformation and growth of Religion, very prejudiciall to the state and government of this Kingdome: And that we are resolved that the same shall be taken away. And according to our former Declaration of the seventh of *February*, Our purpose is to consult with godly and learned Divines, that we may not onely remove this but settle such a government, as may be most agreeable to Gods holy Word, most apt to procure and conserve the peace of the Church at home, and happy union with the Church of *Scotland*, and other reformed Churches abroad, and to establish the same by a law which we intend to frame for that purpose to be presented to his Majesty for his Royall assent. And in the mean time humbly to beseech his *Majesty* that a Bill for the Assembly may be passed in time convenient for the meeting to be by the 1st of *November* next, the miserable estate of the Church and kingdome not being able to endure any longer delay.

This being the resolution of both Houses of Parliament, we doe desire our brethren of *Scotland* to concurre with us in Petitioning his *Majesty*, that his Royall Authority may be applyed to the conservation of a firme unity between the two kingdomes, and that they likewise will think good to send to the same Assembly some godly and learned Divines of that Church, whereby an uniformitie in form of Church government may be obtained, and thereby a more easie passage made to the setling of one Confession of faith, one Liturgie or directory of the publick worship, and one Catechisme in all the three kingdomes. Which we hope through Gods blessing will have such an effect in all his Majesties dominions, as will much advance the honour and service of God, enlarge the greatnesse, power and glorie of the King, confirm the peace security and prosperity of all his good subjects, make way to the relief and deliverance of the poore afflicted Churches abroad, and to the totall abolishing of the usurpation and Tyrannie of *Rome*, being the prime cause and fountaine of all the miseries and calamities, the bloudy massacres, outrages, cruelties, and bitter persecution of Gods people in all the Christian world for many Ages.

FINIS.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF Both Houſes of Parliament:

Preſented to His MAJESTY on the 24th of November.

With His MAJESTY's gracious

ANSVVER

thereunto.

Alſo, a Proclamation for the better Government of His MAJESTY's Army.

Printed, by His MAJESTY's Command,

At OXFORD,

By *LEONARD LICHFIELD* Printer to the Univerſity. 1642.